

is due against Bihar and West Bengal Government respectively. Bihar Government has not paid even a single pie from 1989 to 1992 till date. If there is any defect in the machines or if the machines are defective, naturally we need money for their repair. The Central Government has written several letters to Bihar Government and I would request hon. Ram Lakhan ji to help us in recovering the balance amount of Rs. 403 crore, so that we may try to get the machines repaired.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, since sever years, two units have been destroyed by fire. In the meanwhile, I want to know whether the Government has made any attempt to repair it by indigenous technology and if not why? Why such a long time was taken by the DVC authorities to negotiate with Germany and seeking the permission of the Government after seven years? What are the reasons behind it?

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, originally when the DVC came into existence, these machines were taken from Germany. Now those machines have been damaged. And for the replacement of those machines and technology, we have to take assistance from that country and for that foreign exchange is required. On why a fire took place, for that a Committee was instituted. (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, that is a different thing. We are not asking about the fire.

My question is that after it was destroyed by the fire, why you have not immediately taken steps either to import the parts from Germany or to repair it by indigenous technology. What are the efforts you have made during this period; we want to know from you concretely.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: My Government has taken the steps. Now the tenders have been invited. Tendres are also pending for the decision. (Interruptions) You know for two years there was a non-Congress Gov-

ernment and the whole country was on fire. Nothing took place. (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHODHURY: Do not blame the non-congress Governments only blame yourself also.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: My duty is to reply the question. Now the Government of India is taking steps. We have invited the tender. Even the work for Durgapur Unit-4 was given for overhauling to BHEL and they did not do the work properly. Again the machine was damaged. The question is, as for the technology which we have taken from foreign countries, during the initial stage if any damage takes place, we have to request the concerned authorities to repair the damaged portion.

Telecast of "Thirukural" Quotes

*654. SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR. JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the nature and extent of the coverage of "Thirukural-a famous work of great Saint Thiruvalluvar" by the All India Radio particularly Tamil Nadu Radio Station;

(b) the future plans for the expansion of radio coverage;

(c) whether the Doordarshan has any plan to telecast "Thirukural " quotes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The coverage consists of the following:-

(i) Recitation of one couplet from Thirukural alongwith a short explanatory talk.

(ii) Inclusion of couplets from Thirukural in the thought for the Day programme

(iii) Talks/Interviews/Discussion based on Thirukural .

(iv) Coverage of public functions relating to Thirukural and its author Thiruvalluvar.

(b) (A) 3-programme series devoted to each of the 3 chapters of Thirukural is under preparation for being broadcast in the National Channel of All India Radio.

(c) and (d). Doordarshan Kendra, Madras is already including couplets from Thirukural in its daily programme 'Namadhu, Chinthanaikku' (Thought for the Day) on its Metro Channel. Couplets from Thirukural are already frequently used as filler captions in between programmes on its Regional Channel.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Thirukural, the great work done by Thiruvalluvar 2000 years ago, is accepted all over the world, barring religious and linguistic controversies. It is called by great intellectuals as the world ethic literature and also by great intellectuals as the universal creed.

From his answer it is clear that All India Radio, under the special heading Kuralamudham is broad casting it everyday in the morning. I want to know from the Minister whether the national channel of All India Radio will broadcast this work of quotes from Thirukural in other Indian languages, other than Tamil.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: In the National Channel we are making some programme, so that we can mount it in languages other than Tamil also to give our respect to this great saint and philosopher who 2000 years ago thought about some of the tenets which are even today very valuable to us. Therefore not only in Tamil, but in other languages, in 1993 some programme could be given for all the people in India, so that they can understand it in their own language. We are preparing such a programme.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANART-

HANAN: I thank the Minister for the same. Regarding Doordarshan it is quite clear as evidenced from your reply that Doordarshan is not at all giving importance to this great work. So I want to know from the Minister whether, as Madras Doordarshan is telecasting now and then, occasionally under the heading " Namadhu Chinthanaikku" in the metro channel only, it will telecast like All India Radio under special heading 'Kuralamudham' which will be a regular process. Aslo I want to know from the Minister whether this non-peril and didactic work meant for all the people will be telecast under the national programme also under some special heading. In these days for the youngsters it will instill a secular sense and character building nature. Since this great work is for all ages, will the national programme also give importance to this great work Thirukural and telecast under some special heading like the All India Radio?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: All India Radio has established a tradition for a long time and they had found out certain time slots for giving as much publicity as could be given to the work of this great saint for educational purpose also.

So, far as Doordarshan is concerned, in the programme which is known as '*Namathu Sinthanaikku*' that is 'thought of the day' or 'thought of that day', this is being given at present in prime time at 7. 30 p.m., in Metro Channel. The suggestion of the hon. Member for giving it in the national Channel is well noted and in the next year, 1993, even in the National Channle of Doordharshan, we are going to have some programme so that the whole country can appreciate the great work of this saint.

SHRI K THULASIAH VANDAYAR: '*Thirukural*' is a Practical philosophical couplet in Tamil which is a moral guide. Has Doordharshan got any plan to telecast the Hindi version of

'Thirukural' everyday for two minutes?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: No plan has now been made. But the point made by the hon. Member is noted.

SHRI P G NARAYANAN: Admittedly,, the country is much benefited by the marvelous contribution of 'Thiruvalluvar'. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to whether there is any proposal to telecast the life history of 'Thiruvalluvar' and to telecast his couplets; and whether any private company has applied for telecasting the 'Thirukural' serials.

MR. SPEAKER: Second part will not be allowed.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: So far as this great man is concerned, works were done by him 2, 000 years ago and records of his life are not available. I personally tried to find out at least the bio-data of this great man his place of birth, when he was born or when he left us for heavenly abode, etc. but, we have got hold of some of his works and those are in three parts. One is 'Aram' called the ethics; the second is 'Porul', the material aspects of life; and the third is 'Inbam' love or married life. This has nothing to do with religion., It is a great philosophy not only for India, but also for the whole world. It touches every aspect of human life. In fact, it touches every aspect where life is there. Therefore, we are trying to depict the works done through the electronic media the philosophy of this great man. But so far as the life aspect is concerned, we have no records available with us. If the hon. Members have got any records with them or if they know the place where the records are laying, we will be greatly benefited to get those records and make it known to the people through the electronic media.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pattanayak, this is on 'Thirukural' only. So, you do not have to say any thing else.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK: I would like to know from the hon. Minister through you, Sir, as to whether the Government has set up any expert committee to select the famous literary work in other languages also for telecasting?

MR. SPEAKER: No, This is not allowed. Next question.

Hike in Steel Prices

*658. SHRIPRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state;

(a) whether the steel Authority of India Limited proposes to hike steel prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Steel Authority of India Limited also propose to improve the quality of steel in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The last general price increase based on increases in input costs was announced in September, 1990. Thereafter, there have been increases in the prices of various inputs required for production of steel.

After deregulation on 16.01.1992, price increase by SAIL will depend upon these input cost increases and the market conditions.

(c) to (e). Quality improvement is a continuous process and for this, requisite steps are taken by SAIL from time to time.

Various measures covering different aspects of operations have been taken to upgrade product quality such as:-

1. Strict adherence to technological norms;

2. Modernisation and technological upgradation including:-